Application No.: 09/988,811 Docket No.: 320523312US9

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Confirmation No.: 8011

In re Patent Application of: Steele et al.

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Application No.: 09/988,811

Filed: November 20, 2001 Art Unit: 3685

For: INITIATION OF AN INFORMATION Examiner: J. D. Nigh

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date, OR more than three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application, AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs first, but before the mailing date of any of a Final Office Action, a Notice of Allowance (37 CFR 1.97(c)) or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(ii), Applicant has not submitted copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent applications. Applicant submits herewith copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a search has been made; (ii) additional information that may be material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the cited information is, or is considered to be, material to patentability. In addition, applicant does not admit that any enclosed item of information constitutes prior art to the subject invention and specifically reserves the right to demonstrate that any such reference is not prior art.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The fee of \$180.00 will be paid by credit card. Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 320523312US9.

Dated: November 17, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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